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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **SUNDRIDGE TACKLE LIMITED [GB/GB]; Vicarage Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9LW (GB).**

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **CARROLL, John [GB/GB]; Sundridge Tackle Limited, Vicarage Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9LW (GB).**

(74) Agent: **GILMOUR, David, C.; Potts, Kerr & Co., 15 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Merseyside CH41 6BR (GB).**

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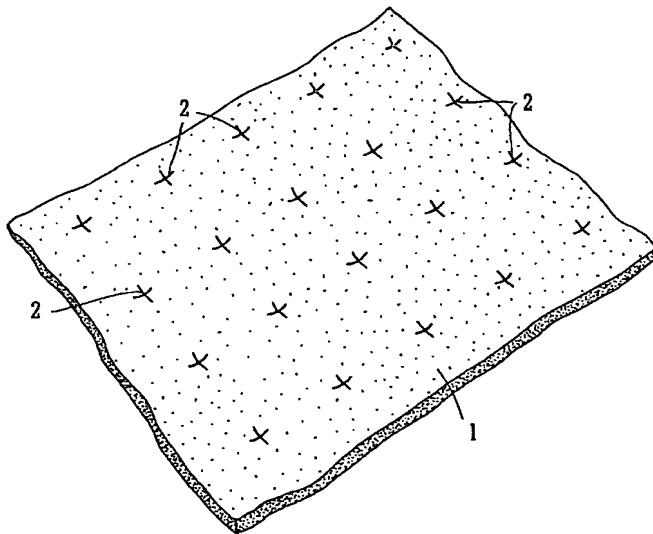
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(54) Title: **FOAM MATERIAL AND GARMENTS MADE THEREFROM**



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(57) **Abstract:** A flexible or pliable closed cell foam material (1) in sheet form for forming at least part of a garment, characterized in that the foam material (1) has one or more slits or cuts and/or needle-punched holes (2) therein extending through the sheet from one surface to the other, in which the slits or cuts and/or needle-punched holes (2) are selected to be of a spacing and/or selected to be each of a shape and/or size and/or length as to minimize or not adversely affect the strength and/or shrinkage rate of the foam sheet such as regards the subjection to thermal stability testing and/or compression testing for buoyancy aids, and in which the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes are normally in abutment and/or close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed and separate or press less against each other when flexed to allow air and/or water vapour to pass therethrough.